

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Work Session – February 22, 2010

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, February 22, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Johnson, Negard, Downs, Waldhausen, Hellquist. Absent: Meuers

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer/Public Works Director Craig Gray, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the work session was to approve the BREC seating contract and change order, discuss 2 a.m. closing for liquor license holders and to consider \$275 sponsorship of 2010 Bemidji Day at the Capitol.

Amendments to Agenda

Mayor Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following item was requested to be added to the agenda:

- The appointment of a City of Bemidji Joint Planning Commission Member to sit on the Sustainability Committee

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Negard, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

BREC Seating

Kraus Anderson recommended that the Council approve a contract with Hussey Seating Company in the amount of \$1,060,870 for Arena Seating & Telescoping Stands. Kraus Anderson also requested that the Council approve a change order in the amount of \$8,051 with Hussey Seating Company.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Downs, to approve the seating bid recommendation with Hussey Seating Company in the amount of \$1,060,870. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Downs to approve the change order of Hussey Seating Company in the amount of \$8,051. Motion carried unanimously.

Sustainability Committee Appointment

Waldhausen requested that a City representative from the Joint Planning Commission be appointed to the Sustainability Committee since there are a number of issues that the Committee is working on that are related to Joint Planning, such as community gardens and land use ordinances, and believes that a member of the Joint Planning Commission can answer most of their questions.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Johnson, to appoint a city member of the Joint Planning Commission to the Sustainability Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

2 a.m. Closing for Liquor License Holders

Council was presented with the issue of amending the current ordinance that enforces 1:00 a.m. closing for liquor license holders to 2:00 a.m. This issue was brought to the Council by Tom Hanson, owner of Zorbaz on the Lake. Mr. Hanson would like to build a Zorbaz on the Lake in the South Shore Development on Lake Bemidji. However, his commitment to do so is contingent upon the City of Bemidji having a 2:00 a.m. closing.

Council discussed the following:

- Local liquor license holders oppose the 2:00 a.m. closing time
- Establishments can sell food as late as they want; they just have to stop serving alcohol at 1:00 a.m.
- The City could lose future development proposals because of the 1:00 a.m. vs. 2:00 a.m. closing
- This issue will not go away
- The City needs to be progressive and competitive with other regional cities such as St. Cloud and Grand Forks

- Concerns regarding increased police calls with the transfer of patrons from establishments closing at 1:00 a.m. to the establishment that closes at 2:00 a.m.
- A 2:00 a.m. closing should not dictate the progress of development

Chattin and Gray indicated that there is also a street issue with a later closing. In addition to new parking signs that would need to be installed there is the issue of plowing. At the current time, drivers cannot start plowing until 1:30-1:45 a.m. due to cars on the streets. If there is a 2:00 a.m. closing time, this could delay the plowing even longer which could result in unplowed downtown streets at a time that has been expected for the past 20 years.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Lehmann, to continue with the current ordinance dictating a 1:00 a.m. closing for liquor license holders. Motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Negard, Hellquist, Lehmann, Johnson. Nays: Waldhausen, Downs.

Sponsorship of 2010 Bemidji Day at the Capitol

Council was presented with a request by the Bemidji Chamber of Commerce to sponsor \$275 to support the 2010 Bemidji Day at the Capitol.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hellquist, to pay to the Bemidji Chamber a sponsorship amount of \$275 to support the 2010 Bemidji Day at the Capitol. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Waldhausen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk